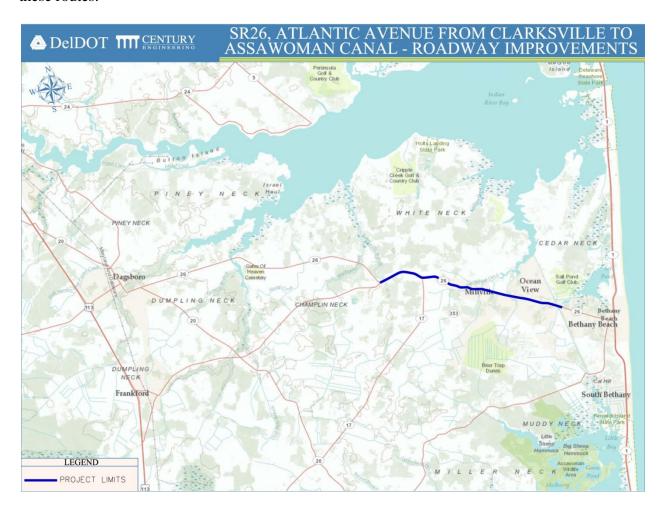
SR26, Atlantic Avenue, Clarksville to Assawoman Canal Sussex County, Delaware

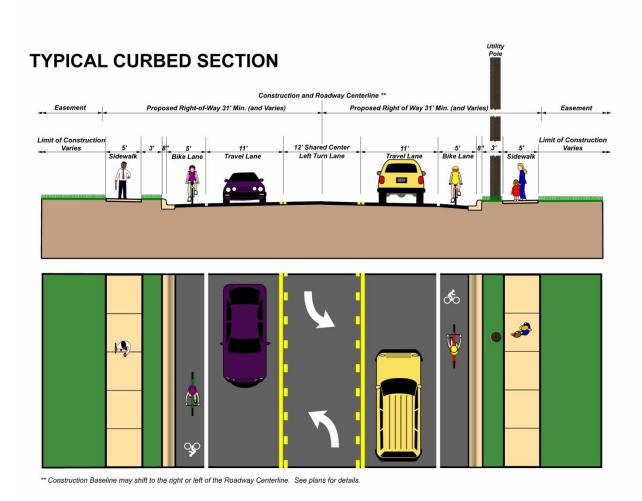
Delaware's southeast Sussex County is home to several popular beach resort destinations. The cities and towns in this area see their populations swell drastically during the peak resort months, typically from May through September each year. There are only three main east-west routes available to vacationers that access these resort areas. SR26 (State Route 26) is one of these routes.



The need for improvements to SR26 (Atlantic Avenue) stems from record residential and commercial growth through the late 1990's and early 2000's, which resulted in traffic congestion, safety concerns, and operational issues. The proposed improvements are the result of a DelDOT Planning study conducted from 1999 to 2001, along with recommendations received from the public at numerous public workshops and advisory committee meetings. The DelDOT study specifically identified four miles of SR26 that needed operational and safety improvements.

This project will make numerous improvements to SR26. The existing roadway, which typically only provides two travel lanes within the project limits, will be widened to provide one eleven (11) foot travel lane in each direction with five (5) foot shoulders which will be striped as bike lanes. A 12 foot wide shared center left turn lane will be included through the length of the project. Separate right turn lanes and left turn lanes will be added at most intersections. Sidewalks and closed drainage will be provided for much of the roadway segments through the towns of Ocean View and Millville. All of this will be done by widening an existing 40 foot wide existing state right-of-way to typically 64 feet wide. The project will provide improvements that accommodate the area's multi-modal transportation needs. DelDOT and its SR26 Project Team have continued to work with neighborhood and community representatives, schools, local government leaders, concerned citizens, federal and state environmental and cultural resource agencies, and others to develop plans that meet the diverse needs of the community.

SR26 Typical Curbed Roadway Sections



The SR26 project is a federally participating project with FHWA oversight. As such, the NEPA process has been followed. Fourteen (14) properties of the 111 that were investigated were identified as either listed on the National Historic Register or Eligible for Listing on the National Historic Register. As a result of avoiding impacts to the historic properties, fifteen (15) properties will require relocation. Overall, 275 parcels will require some sort of right-of-way acquisition or dedication.

The design effort for the SR26 project began in 2003, and is nearing completion. Currently, construction is expected to last for three to four years. The design team is exploring a number of alternatives to minimize time in construction as much as possible. Real Estate acquisition began in 2008 and in expected to be complete in early 2013, with the beginning of construction following.

SR 26 Project website: SR26, Atlantic Avenue, Clarksville to Assawoman Canal.

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